

Salisbury CND Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament Newsletter - June-July 2018

http://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk

Greetings from Salisbury CND. You <u>can</u> make a difference - together we can help work for a safer nuclear-free world for the future. Visit the Salisbury CND website (address above) for information on events, links to other campaigning organisations, etc.

Our **Facebook** page is at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Salisbury-CND/583212191799930. Please circulate this information around your friends and contacts as widely as possible.

NEWS & COMMENT

CND Symbol Tour - 11-16 June 2018 - Salisbury

The role of CND's iconic logo is being marked with a Symbol Tour of Britain, visiting over 20 dramatic locations across Britain. The huge three-dimensional symbol that National CND commissioned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of CND came to Stonehenge and to the Cathedral Close in Salisbury!

At STONEHENGE, we displayed the great symbol with Stonehenge in the background. http://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news items/267-cnd-symbol-tour-visits-stonehenge





We displayed it again in front of SARUM COLLEGE, with their enthusiastic agreement, in the company of our speaker Kate Hudson, before our Public Meeting and AGM at the College (see full report below). About 40 people attended the meeting. A 15 minutes Peace and Justice silent vigil was held before the public meeting.

http://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news_items/269-cnd-symbol-tour-visits-sarum-college-salisbury





Public Meeting and AGM - 14 June 2018 - Sarum College, Cathedral Close, Salisbury
Our speaker was Kate Hudson, General Secretary of National CND, on the still-vital importance of our campaign: 'CND - now more than ever'.

Kate began by outlining our current position. Projected Trident replacement expenditure currently runs at £205 Bn. Two US developments are worth noting. Their Strategic Defence Review charts a move to a new focus, from the "war on terror" towards "strategic competitors". Their new Nuclear Posture Review proposes the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons that are so called low yield or more useable. Note: the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki would fall into the new definition of "low yield"! On a more positive note, only 9 countries worldwide have nuclear weapons - the vast majority of the world does NOT want nuclear weapons.

We are approaching the 50th anniversary of the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty this year. Britain is a signatory to this Treaty. The International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) was awarded the Nobel Peace prize recently for its contribution to the establishment of the new UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon for which 122 countries have voted. It is now open for signature and ratification. Currently 59 countries have signed and 10 have ratified, which is good progress in the relatively short time it has been available for signature. When 50 countries have ratified it, the Treaty will come into force and be binding on those who have signed. Once in force, the treaty's status can change gradually towards "Customary International Law". However the nuclear powers are putting pressure on some countries, such as Sweden, not to sign. Many countries who voted for the new treaty haven't yet signed it. It may be useful to write to embassies, congratulating them on voting for the treaty and asking them when they intend to sign it. The ICAN website contains good information on the position of each country. The UK has made the barely credible claim that it

will never sign the treaty. Countries now face a choice between being seen as potentially heavy hitters, or else being part of the global anti-nuclear majority. The 122 countries that have voted in favour of the new Treaty represent about two-thirds of the member countries of the UN.

In the discussion that followed this presentation, there was a review of whether nuclear weapons could now be honestly considered as a deterrent. Changes in technology mean that the concept of mutually assured destruction is no longer sustainable. It is often said that nuclear weapons are justified as a deterrent, although the facts do not support this. The Public Accounts Committee has raised questions about the affordability of Trident renewal and many senior military people have criticised Trident spending for its huge impact on the broader defence budget.

The Unite union is opposed to scrapping Trident renewal, which complicates Labour's stance on the issue. The matter of how jobs lost, if Trident were to be scrapped, could be replaced with other more positive activities, such as renewable energy and environmental technology, is an important one. The TUC has passed a motion urging Labour to set up a Defence Diversification Agency to consider these matters. There was discussion about how to work most effectively towards a nuclear-free world. International co-operation and collaboration with other like-minded organisations were seen as crucial. The meeting concluded by thanking Kate enthusiastically for her presentation.

<u>AGM</u>: the agenda included a summary of the year's activities, a financial report, Press Officer's report and membership report. A very generous anonymous donation from a longstanding member helped greatly with the cost of our part in the Symbol Tour in June was acknowledged with many thanks. Among other thanks to officers and helpers, Peter Gloyns was thanked for his untiring management of our website.

Hearty thanks were also offered to Peter Hugall, Peter Gloyns, Chris Hyde and Richard Bolton for their tremendous efforts in setting up the CND Symbol at Stonehenge and in the Close, and taking such good photos.

Also a massive thanks for all generous donations toward the venture.

Tim Sedgwick-Jell will be standing down as Press Officer soon. We would be delighted to hear of anyone who might be able to take on this useful role - help and advice would be freely available! Contact Caroline Lanyon on 01722 321865 if you would like any more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Market Stall - Saturday 28 July 2018 - The Maltings

It looks as if this event can now go ahead at our usual location, as the Maltings has been opened to the public again. Help with the event is always welcome. Do come along to talk to the public, gather signatures for the Citizens' Treaty, and help sell the amazing selection of stuff that we usually have on offer!

Hiroshima Candle Float - Monday 6 August 2018 - Fisherton Bridge, Salisbury

The Candle Float is always a very special occasion. Do mark it in your diary and come to join us at 8.45pm as the light fades and witness hundreds of candles floating gently down the river in memory of all the victims of nuclear weapons. Last years event is shown on video and in pictures: http://www.cndsalisbury.org.uk/news_items/203-hiroshima-day-candle-float-pictures

Find out more - call Caroline on 01722 321865 or email us.

CONTACT DETAILS and MEMBERSHIP FORM

SALISBURY C.N.D. contact details

Caroline Lanyon, tel 01722 321865 c.lanyon@ btinternet.com - Group contact, Newsletter Distributor	32 Kings Road, Salisbury, Wilts. SP1 3AD	
Peter Gloyns, tel 01794 390482 pgloyns@aol.com - Membership Secretary	St Vincent, North Lane, Nomansland, Salisbury, Wilts. SP5 2BU	
Moura MacDonagh, tel 01722 710718 mouramartin@btinternet.com - Newsletter Content	Longways, Southampton Road, Whaddon, Salisbury, Wilts. SP5 3EB	
Alex Raws, tel 01722 336736 <u>alexraws@btinternet.com</u> – Treasurer	12 St Andrew's Road, Lower Bemerton, Salisbury, Wilts. SP2 9NU	
Peter Wicks, peter.wicks715@ btinternet.com, tel 01980 633002 - Events/peace info by email	6 Newmans Way, Bulford, Salisbury, Wilts. SP4 9HT	
Tim Sedgwick-Jell, mary-annaandtim@tiscali.co.uk tel 01722 349770 - Press Officer		

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